

cardiac pathology.

14. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the cardiac pathology is selected from the group consisting of congestive heart failure, diastolic heart failure, low-output heart failure, right-sided heart failure, cardiac hypertrophy, and cardiac fibrosis.

15. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the cortisol antagonist is an inhibitor of cortisol synthesis.

16. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the inhibitor of cortisol synthesis is ketoconazole or a derivative thereof.

17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the cortisol synthesis inhibitor is a Cis-2S,4R and/or Cis-2R,4S isomer of ketoconazole.

18. (New) A composition for daily administration to a mammalian subject comprising:

- i) a cortisol antagonist, and
- ii) a second drug,

as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of heart failure or in improving cardiac function and reducing exercise intolerance.

19. (New) A method for the treatment of one or more symptoms associated with heart failure selected from the group comprising edema of lower limbs, pulmonary edema, dyspnea, liver enlargement, increased heart rate, reduced stroke volume, shortness of breath and exercise intolerance which comprises administering the composition of claim 18 to a mammalian subject.